Pest Update (Aug 1, 2012)

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John Ball, Forest Health Specialist SD Department of Agriculture,
Extension Forester SD Cooperative Extension

Email: john.ball@sdstate.edu
Phone: 605-688-4737
Samples sent to: John Ball
Plant Science Department
rm 230, Agriculture Hall, Box 2207A
South Dakota State University
Brookings, SD 57007-0996

Note: samples containing living tissue may only be accepted from South Dakota. Please do not send samples of dying plants or insects from other states. If you live outside of South Dakota and have a question, instead please send a digital picture of the pest or problem. **Walnut samples may not be sent in from any location – please provide a picture!**

Available on the net at:
http://sdda.sd.gov/Forestry/Educational-Information/PestAlert-Archives.aspx

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Plant development

The Ural falsespireas are in full bloom in Brookings. It appears we finally are where we should be for a "normal" season.

Current concerns

Emerald ash borer is in the news again. The emerald ash borer has been relatively quiet on the western edge of its known distribution with little expansion beyond the eastern Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri borders. However that changed this past week with the discovery of the insect in the suburbs of Kansas City, Missouri, the farthest west it has been found in North America.

The emerald ash borer, an accidental introduction from East Asia, has been responsible for the loss of more than 50 million ash trees in the past decade. The insect is thought to have arrived in the Detroit suburbs sometime in the early 1990s but it was not discovered there until 2002 and by that time had spread to many other areas of the state as well as northern Ohio. The emerald ash borer is now found from eastern Minnesota to Connecticut and as far south as Tennessee and Missouri.

The Kansas City discovery was made by a commercial arborist who noticed the classic signs and symptoms of a tree infested with the beetle – D-shaped exit holes of the adults in the bark, S-shaped galleries of the larvae beneath the bark and sprouts along the base of an otherwise dead tree.

Other common symptoms associated with trees infested by the beetle are extensive woodpecker damage, to the point of the bark being stripped off, and vertical splits in the bark. Woodpecker damage is most common in larger trees, those more than 6 to 8 inches in diameter while vertical splits are more often seen in smaller trees. The D-shaped holes are usually not found until the tree is dead or near death.

Since dying ash are a common sight in the Midwest and West it will be easy to miss a newly infested tree. It is critical that people be aware of the most common symptoms – woodpecker damage or vertical bark splits on declining ash and D-shaped holes on dead ash – that are associated with this insect. Generally it takes about 8 years for the population to expand to where tree mortality is difficult to impossible to contain. The sooner emerald ash borer is detected in a community, the easier it will be to manage.

Rain (finally)

Heavy rains (and wind) occurred in the northeastern part of the state this past weekend. While the 75 mph+ winds were not welcomed, the rain will be a big help in slowing the decline and dieback of many trees that had suffered during the dry months that preceded this shower. Interestingly, some trees may show more symptoms of the drought now that it has rained. Buckeyes, hackberries and walnuts, among other tree species, may not shed their stressed leaves until rains occur. Also remember that August and September precipitation is critical for trees to prepare for winter properly so let's hope that there is more rain in the forecast.

Fall webworms are on the move. Last week I started receiving calls about webbing on the tips of branches filled with small caterpillars. These are the young fall webworm larvae. The yellow to brown, tufted, larvae are about 1/3-inch long and actively moving within the nest at this time. The webworm differs from tent caterpillars in time of feeding (spring for tent caterpillars and late summer for webworms) and where they form their nests (interior, near branch crotches, for tent caterpillars and exterior, out on the branches for webworms). The fall webworm favorite foods are cottonwoods, chokecherries and walnut, but almost any hardwood tree species will do. It is a myth that since they are feeding on leaves that will soon drop anyway that no damage is caused – the next month or so is a time of high productive for these leaves and the loss of them will leave the tree going into winter with fewer reserves. Control for the larvae is fairly simple when they are small – less than ½-inch – either just tear the nests open and let the predators and parasites after them or treat with Malathion or carbaryl (Sevin) among other insecticides

Leaf cutter bees are "a buzzing." I have received numerous calls about strange damage to the margins of the leaves of roses and lilacs. The margins are lined with smooth, semicircle holes that appear as though someone went around the leaf with a paper punch. The damage is due to nest building by the (appropriately named) leaf cutter bee. This insect is about the same size and appearance as the honeybee but not as aggressive and will only sting if handled (and the sting is not nearly as painful). They are solitary bees; they do not swarm or form colony nests. Instead leaf cutter bees crave out a home in soft, rotten wood and line the nest with these leaf fragments. The leaf damage most often occurs on ash as

well as roses and lilac and is more aesthetic than a health problem for the plant. Occasionally the bees will crave a nest out of the pith of larger rose stems – look for sawdust at the base of the cane – but even this damage usually does very little harm to the plant as only the pith and a small area of vascular tissue is injured. The most common recommendation to reduce damage to roses is to net them at this time of year.

E-samples

The foliage of the buckeye is showing symptoms of drought-stress, yellowing and marginal browning. These are common symptoms of drought on many trees and the symptoms are often confused with the fungal disease anthracnose. However this year we are seeing very little anthracnose due to the warm, dry spring.

Samples received

Campbell County **What is wrong with this Nanking cherry? The leaves are scorched along the margins and yellowing. The landowner said he has been watering them and they were showing these symptoms before the 100^{o}F heat.**

I still think what you are looking at is drought/heat stress – the browning margins are typically a symptom of this disorder. Nanking cherries are susceptible to this type of injury and some of the surrounding states were noticing this stress on Nanking cherries even back in late June just when the weather was becoming hot.